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Texas Hold'em Tournaments for Charitable Fundraising

Summary

"Texas Hold'em" is a seven card poker game in which players wager money against each other on the strength of their hands by placing bets in a common pot. The player with the strongest hand at the conclusion of play wins the pot. Hold'em is currently the most common poker variant and an approved game of chance in the State of New Jersey.

Definitions

1. "All-in" means a player bet all their chips.
2. "Betting Interval" means the period of play when each player has an opportunity to bet, check, raise, call or drop (fold).
3. "Big Blind" means a mandatory bet (typically twice the amount of the small blind) Placed by the player to the left of the small blind position before card are dealt.
4. "Community Cards/Board Cards" means the cards dealt face up in the middle of the table which may be used by all players in constructing a standard five card poker hand.
5. "Burning" means discarding the top card from the deck face down.
6. "Call" means a player places enough chips into the pot to make their contribution equal to the contribution of any other player, but no greater.
7. "Check" means a player remains in the round of play but does not wish to place a bet, provided no previous player has made a bet during the betting interval.
8. "Dealer Button" means an object used to designate the player in the dealer position if that player were actually dealing the cards.
9. "Drop/Fold" means a player discards their hand and no longer participates in the round of play.
10. "Equipment" means the standard 52 card decks of playing cards and chips used for betting during the conduct of Tournament Texas Hold'em.
11. "Hand" means any combination of two pocket cards and/or five Board/Community Cards which are used to create a standard five card poker hand.
12. "Hi/Lo" means a variation of Texas Hold'em in which the highest and/or lowest poker hands split the pot (Prohibited, see 10 Terms and Conditions).
13. "Pocket Cards" means the two cards dealt face down to each player that can only be used by that player in constructing a standard five card poker hand.
14. "Raise" means a player places enough chips in the pot to call, plus one or more chips.
15. "Re-buy" means the fee paid by a player to purchase additional chips.
16. "Round of Play" means the period of play commencing with the first card dealt by the dealer and concluding with the awarding of the pot.
17. "Side Pot" means a new pot(s) established by the dealer after a player has gone All-in and additional bets have been placed.
18. "Small Blinds" means a mandatory bet (typically half the amount of the Big Blind) placed by the player immediately to the left of the Dealer Button before any cards are dealt.
19. "Wild Card" means a card that may serve as any other suit or value in making a poker hand (Prohibited, see 9 Terms and Conditions).

Terms and Conditions/Game Conduct

1. Texas Hold'em shall be conducted with equipment that is owned by the licensee or rented from an equipment supplier approved by the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission and maintained in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:47-20.15(a).
2. Tournament Texas Hold'em shall be conducted in a manner where all players pay the established buy-in for the same amount of chips.
3. Tournament Texas Hold'em shall not be conducted in any manner that assigns a cash redemption value to chips and shall operate in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:47-20.11(a),(b),(c),(d).
4. Texas Hold'em shall be played with a standard 52 card deck without jokers.
5. Tournament Texas Hold'em shall be played at approved tables large enough to accommodate a dealer and up to eleven players in such a manner as to ensure that players may examine their cards without disclosing their value to other players in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:47-20.36(b).
6. The order of finish for the tournament shall be determined by one of the following methods:
 - a. If play continues until all but one player is eliminated, the order of finish shall be the order of elimination from last to first. The last remaining player shall be declared the winner.
 - b. If play stops at a set time, the order of finish shall be determined by ranking the value of chips held by each player at the end of play from highest to lowest. The player having the highest value of chips shall be declared the winner.
7. A player shall not bet on more than one hand in any round of play.
8. Re-buys are permitted. A maximum of (3) re-buys are permitted within the first hour of play.
9. Wild card are prohibited.
10. Hi/Lo games are prohibited. Winners shall be determined by the highest ranking poker combination.
11. Any dispute concerning Texas Hold'em shall be referred to the licensed Casino Night Operator (A) for final determination.
12. Rakes/Cutting of pots are prohibited.
13. All suits have the same rank. The rank of cards, from highest to lowest, shall be ace, king, queen, jack, 10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2, except as provided in 51(a) where the ace may be counted low.
14. The dealer shall manually shuffle the cards prior to each round.
15. Prior to the first round of play, the dealer shall place the dealer button in front of the player immediately to the dealer's left. The dealer shall move the button to the next player in a clockwise direction prior to commencing each subsequent round of play.
16. The player immediately to the left of the dealer button shall post the required small blind before the beginning of each round of play.
17. The player immediately to the left of the small blind position shall post the required big blind before the beginning of each round of play.

NOTE: *When all but two players have been eliminated from the table, the player with the Dealer Button shall post the Small Blind and the other player shall post the Big Blind.*
18. All Cards shall be dealt clockwise beginning with the player immediately to the left of the Dealer Button.
19. The dealer shall commence betting interval 1 by burning a card and then dealing one card to each player face down, then a second card to each player face down.
20. Each player may examine their Pocket Cards (Hole Cards) at any time.

21. Each player shall keep their Pocket Cards (Hole Cards) in full view of the dealer at all times and must ensure that they are examined in a manner that does not disclose to other players their value. Players are prohibited from exchanging information concerning their hand.
22. Players that drop from the Round of Play shall not reveal their Pocket Cards (Hole Cards).
23. Betting Interval 1 shall proceed as follows:
 - a. The player immediately to the left of the Big Blind position is the first to act and must Call, Raise, or Fold (Drop).
 - b. Betting continues in a clockwise direction until each player had an opportunity to Call, Raise or Fold (Drop) with the exception of the player in the Big Blind position who may also Check if no other player has Raised.
24. The dealer shall commence Betting Interval 2 by Burning a Card and then dealing three Board Cards (Community Cards) face up in the middle of the table, this is referred to as the Flop.
25. Betting Interval 2 shall proceed as follows:
 - a. The player immediately to the left of the Dealer Button is the first to act and must bet, Check, or Fold (Drop).
 - b. Betting continues in a clockwise direction until each player has an opportunity to bet, Check, Call Raise, Fold (Drop).
26. The dealer shall commence Betting Interval 3 by Burning a card and dealing one Board Card (Community Card) face up, commonly referred to as the turn.
27. Betting Interval 3 shall proceed as in (25).
28. The dealer shall commence Betting Interval 4 by Burning a card and dealing one Board Card (Community Card) face up, commonly referred to as the River.
29. Betting Interval 4 shall proceed as in (25).
30. Upon completion of four Betting Intervals:
 - a. If only one player remains in the Round of Play, (i.e., all but one player has folded (dropped), the player is not obligated to show their hand.
 - b. If two or more players remain in the Round of Play:
 - i. It shall be the obligation of the player who made the last bet to show their hand.
 - ii. If no player has placed a bet, it shall be the obligation of all players to show their hands.
31. Any combination of a player's Pocket Cards and/or Board Cards (Community Cards) may be used to construct a standard five card poker hand.
32. The dealer shall declare the last remaining player the winner or determine the winning Hand among the remaining players in accordance with the appropriate ranking of poker combinations consistent with the regulation for Texas Hold'em.
33. In the event of a tie the high card not used in the poker combination shall break the tie.
34. If a tie cannot be broken the pot shall be split equally.
35. All pot(s) get awarded to the player(s) with the winning hand.
36. The dealer shall collect the cards and shuffle them prior to the next Round of Play.

ALL-IN/SIDE POTS

37. If only two players remain in a Round of Play, and one player does not have enough chips to Call the bet made by the other player, then the player with the fewest chips may move All-in and the player with the most chips shall remove enough chips from their bet to make it equal to the bet of the player moving all-in. The Round of Play will then continue with no further betting.
38. If two or more players wish to bet more than the bet of another player moving all-in, the dealer shall establish a Side Pot(s).

ELIMINATION

39. A player is eliminated from the tournament when the player has lost all their chips.

POSTING OF RULES

40. All tournament rules must be in accordance with the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission Statutes and Regulations for Texas Hold'em.
41. No organization shall exceed (6) tournament in a calendar year.
42. All reporting requirement remain in effect and must be submitted in accordance with the Raffles Licensing Laws.
43. All rules must be clearly posted and shall state the following:
 - a. Buy-in and amount of chips received.
 - b. If Rebuys are permitted, a statement that includes, the number of allowable Rebuys (Max 3), the purchase price for each Rebuy, the amount of chips received with each Rebuy, the period of time that Rebuys are permitted (Within the first hour of play), the time that the tournament will end or a statement that the tournament will continue until all but one player is eliminated, the amount of blinds and the progression of increase in the blinds.
 - c. Raise are limited to three per Betting Interval.
 - d. The prize payout schedule.
 - e. All other information essential to a player's understanding of how the tournament will be conducted.

* *NOTE ONLY QUALIFIED ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE REGISTERED BY THE LEGALIZED GAMES OF CHANCE CONTROL COMMISSION AND HAVE RECEIVED THE NECESSARY MUNICIPAL LICENSE MAY CONDUCT TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH A CASINO NIGHT EVENT.*